

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
LAND REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK**

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NOTIFICATION

The Right to Education is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India and emphasizes the need of children to remain safe as they access and enjoy this right. In furtherance of this right the State Government is committed to ensure safe conditions within the premises of all the Government and Private schools in Sikkim.

The National Disaster Management Authority has introduced National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy 2016 which needs to be strictly adhered to as per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Guidelines are statutory in nature and have to be complied with scrupulously without any deviation. The State Government is also required to prepare a State specific Action Plan for implementation of the guidelines.

Therefore, the State Action Plan on safety of schools in the State prepared by the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department in collaboration with Human Resource Development Department and placed at Annexure I is hereby notified for compliance by all concerned authorities in the State of Sikkim.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

**Tsegyal Tashi
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department
Government of Sikkim**

State Action Plan on School Safety

'School Safety' has been defined as the creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from large-scale 'natural' hazards of geological/climatic origin, human-made risks, pandemics, violence as well as more frequent and smaller-scale fires, transportation and other related emergencies, and environmental threats that can adversely affect the lives of children. The concept has evolved over the last couple of decades as the threat to the physical well-being of children has become more visible both globally and in the country.

Whereas in furtherance of Article 21 & 21-A of the Constitution of India whereby the rights to life and liberty and education have been guaranteed to all school going children, the State Government is committed to ensure safe conditions within the premises of all the Government and Private schools in Sikkim. Right to Education is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India. In order to facilitate access of all children in the state with respect to the Right to Education, it is important to ensure that children remain safe as they access and enjoy their Right to Education.

The National Disaster Management Plan, 2016 emphasizes Reducing Risk; Enhancing Resilience as one of the important factors of Disaster Management in the country. National Disaster Management Authority has further introduced National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy 2016 which needs to be strictly adhered to as per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Accordingly, all states in India need to constitute a State Action Plan as per the guidelines.

A State Level Advisory Committee (SLAC) as well as a District Level Advisory Committee will be constituted to ensure that the Action Plan is strictly followed. The action points stated below shall be followed by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with line departments such as Human Resource Development Department, Fire and Emergency Services Department and others and shall be completed within a year of constituting the SLAC.

Action Points:

1. DISTRICT LEVEL

- a) Each District in the State shall have a District Education Committee for Safety Measures in Schools under the chairpersonship of the District Collector with District Education Officer (Joint Director), Human Resources Development Department as Member, Deputy Director, H.R.D.D as Member Secretary and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department as Member.
- b) The District Education Committee will be responsible for carrying out the objectives set forth in this policy and ensure compliance of all the conditions mentioned herein, in letter & spirit.
- c) The District Education Committee will ensure that all the new schools in the district have a duly certified building plan and Structural Stability Certificate from a Government certified engineer. All the existing schools will also be required to take appropriate steps to render the school buildings safe for the students and obtain a certificate from the relevant authority within a period of one year.

2. FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

- a) Fire Extinguishers of ISI mark of adequate capacity and numbers should be provided in eye-catching spots in the school building. Fire Extinguishers are to be installed in

all Government, Private aided and un-aided schools with immediate effect. In Government Schools, fire extinguishers will be purchased from funds available in the school itself. Till the time such fire extinguishers are purchased and installed, sufficient number of metal buckets filled with sand and water will be immediately installed in eye-catching spots of the school building.

- b) First Aid Kits will be kept in schools to meet out any eventuality.
- c) Emergency telephone numbers and list of persons to be contacted in case of any eventuality shall be displayed on the notice board and other prominent places in the school premises which includes notice boards, classrooms.
- d) Different types of Mock drills will be conducted regularly so as to maintain interest and avoid monotony.
- e) All electrical wiring and equipment will be inspected and if found defective will be replaced with ISI mark equipment.
- f) No High-Tension Lines should run inside or over the premises of a school. Such lines, if existing, should be immediately shifted by bringing the matter to the notice of the District Education Committee.

3. TRAINING OF SCHOOL STAFF & STUDENTS

- a) The State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) will incorporate chapters on disaster management in the regular school curriculum from classes IV-VIII. SCERT will re-design in-service training for teachers so as to include inputs on Safety Measures for preventing and tackling outbreak of fire and other hazards.
- b) The District Institutes of Education & Training (DIETs) will also likewise take steps to appropriately modify their curriculum for pre-service & in-service training for teachers.
- c) Firefighting training to all school staff from Junior High Schools and students from 9th to 12th standard in higher secondary and senior secondary private and government schools will be imparted. They will also be trained in providing emergency first aid treatment. Training to handle fire safety equipment, emergency evacuation and protection in the event of fire and any other emergency would be arranged to be imparted through the Fire & Emergency Wing or any other agency as decided by the District Education Committee. Trained teachers will be given badges by SSDMA so that they can be identified when required.
- d) Emergency Response Mock Drills will be conducted at regular intervals to train the students and school staff.
- e) Painting, Essay, Quiz Competitions as well as skits on the subject safety and awareness to be periodically held in consultation with school teachers.

Fire Safety Day will be observed every year on 14th April with awareness programs and fire safety drills in collaboration with the Fire & Emergency Wing or any other agency as decided by the District Education Committee.

- f) Special lectures on Safety Awareness will be conducted from time to time.

4. SCHOOL BUILDING SPECIFICATIONS

- a) All new School Buildings shall have construction with brick /stone masonry walls with RCC roofing. However, where it is not possible to provide RCC roofing only

non-combustible fire proof heat resistance material should be used. The location of the schools be given importance

However, appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that all old school buildings are adequately repaired to render them safe for the students.

- b) Nursery and Elementary Schools shall be housed in single storied buildings. The maximum number of floors in High & Senior Secondary School buildings, as far as possible, will be restricted to three including the ground floor.
- c) The school building shall be kept free from inflammable and toxic material which, if necessary, shall be stored away from the school building.
- d) The staircases, exits or escape routes, shall adhere to the provisions specified in the Building Codes to ensure quick evacuation or dispersal of children.
- e) The orientation of the buildings shall be in such a manner that proper air circulation and natural lighting is available with open space all around the building as far as possible.
- f) Existing school buildings shall be provided with additional doors in the main entrances as well as the class rooms, if required. The size of the main exit and class room doors should be enlarged, if found inadequate.
- h) Kitchen and other activities involving use of fire should be located in a secure and safe area away from the main school building.
- i) Provision of water tank and separate piping from the tank with hose reel/moveable jets to the ground floor and first floor will be made wherever possible.

5. CLEARANCES AND CERTIFICATES

- a) Every school shall have to furnish an NOC from the Fire & Emergency Wing or any other agency to be authorized by the District Education Committee in this behalf as a mandatory requirement for granting permission for establishing or continuation of a school and granting permanent recognition.
- b) Periodical inspection would be mandatory for all Government and Private Aided and Un-Aided Schools as may be decided by the District Education Committee.
- c) All the new schools in the district shall have a duly certified building plan as per structural norms specified by NDMA and a Structural Stability Certificate or equivalent from a Government certified engineer. However, all the old existing schools shall be required to take appropriate steps to render the school buildings safe for the students.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

- a) School Functions should be held in an open area or in a structure which facilitates easy exits during times of disaster.
- b) The District Education Committee shall take all appropriate steps as deemed necessary to monitor the adherence to the safety measures as enumerated herein by all the Government and Private Schools functioning under their jurisdiction.
- c) Any dereliction in the discharge of obligations as enumerated hereinabove will attract immediate action as per law against the concerned institutional heads and the management of the private schools as the case may be.